INTRODUCTION

RAP HAMLET will be an inner city version of Shakespeare's work, in the language, or rather languages, of today; the primary settings not of a castle and its inner rooms, but a blacktop basketball court and a political club.

The rhythms will be rap, and many others. As to language: no attempt is made to be entirely current as to inner-city slang,
but rather to use expressions understandable to a general audience. If some of these seem dated, the actors must supply the intonation indicating sarcasm or whatever. (Much slang flows
both ways, from the inner city and back to it, thence acquiring the texture of more wit and irony as exemplified by sophisticated speakers.)

This kind of verbal wit, as well as syncopating some of the rap and other beats at times, is in consonance with, for example, the "contest" aspect of the scene enclosed, where both characters are tuned to language in all its forms, and often playfully seeking a trump card.